Appln. No. 09/910,657 Amdt. dated Jan. 11, 2006 Reply to Office Action of Oct. 11, 2005 Docket No. CH9-2000-0004 (246)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action of October 11, 2005 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed before the expiration of the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due.

Claims 1-63 and 67-71 were rejected at page 2 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not sufficiently described in the Specification. At page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9, 12-13, 15-17, 19, 21-29, 32, 34-41, 44, 46-54, 57-58, 60-61, 64-67, and 70-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,064,959 to Young, et al. (hereinafter Young). Claims 14, 20, and 59 were rejected at page 7 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,273 to Mitchell, et al. (hereinafter Mitchell).

It was stated at page 9 of the Office Action, however, that Claims 10-11, 55-56, 62, and 68-69 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and to include the limitations of each base and intervening claim. In a genuine effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 46, and 64 consistent with the conclusions set forth in the Office Action.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite, albeit with some reformulation, each of the features recited in now-cancelled dependent Claims 9 and 10. The reformulation addresses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, as now formulated, independent Claim 1 no longer recites a speech recognition system that "is able to anticipate content." Rather, the claim, as amended, recites "a pre-processing step that defines content for a voice-generated output that is expected to be generated " Support for this formulation is found, for example, at page 9, lines 10-16 of the Specification.

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Independent Claim 46 has been similarly amended to incorporate features recited in now-cancelled dependent Claims 54 and 55. Likewise, independent Claim 64 has been amended to incorporate features recited in now-cancelled dependent Claims 67 and 68. Independent Claims 46 and 64, as amended, also avoid reference to a speech recognition system that "is able to anticipate content" and, instead, recite "a pre-processing step that defines content for a voice-generated output that is expected to be generated . . . ," support for which is found in the Specification as already noted.

Claims 19-45 have been cancelled. Dependent Claims 6, 11, 17, 51, 56, 69, and 70 have each been amended to maintain consistency with other claims.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

Applicants believe that, in view of the claim amendments presented herein, this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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